

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

C49

LA/CATF
INCOMING

FRP: .2,3,4, . . .

STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: DONOVA, OOPD-O, OOPN-N, OOPS-S, OGI/VIP/MP,
OGITNATAB1, OGITNATAB2, OPCTR/EALA, OPCTR/TERR, RF, FILE, LA/CATF-3,
ALA/CR-2, ALA/ES-3, ALA/G-2, ALA/HO-2, ALA/MC/D, ALA/MC/E1, ALA/MC/M1,
ALA/MC/M2, ALA/MC/PME, ALA/MC/RAE, ALA/N-2, ALA/P-2, ALA/PO/LA, CR/W,
D/DMS-3, EPD/LA, EPS/IG, ICS/HC/LA, NCPM, OGI/GD/AWH, OIA/TWALA,
PPS/AD-2, PPS/PO-2, PPS/SEO-3, (41/W)

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PAGE 001
TOR: 091331Z MAY 85

NC 7250639

PP RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
STU4750

PP RUEHC RUEHLL
DE RUEHTG #6204 1291324
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 091324Z MAY 85
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1170
RUEDEHA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN
RUEBDNA/COMJTF-BRAVO COMAYAGUA HO
RUEHLL/CONTADORA COLLECTIVE
BT

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
 Release () Excise () Deny (X) Declassify
Date 2/22/02 Exemption _____

TEGUCIGALPA 06204

E.O. 12356: DECL: 5/8/91
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, HO, MARR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER ACCUSES UNITED STATES OF
INVOLVEMENT IN TRAINING DEATH SQUADS

1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT

2. HONDURAN RADIO AND PRESS REPORTED ON MAY 7 THAT RAMON CUSTODIO, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONDURAS (CODEH) HAS ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF FORMING AND TRAINING DEATH SQUADS IN HONDURAS. CUSTODIO, WHO APPEARED WITH ZENAIDA VELASQUEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS IN HONDURAS (COFADEH), REFERRED ALSO TO A MIAMI HERALD ARTICLE OF APRIL 30 WHICH DISCUSSED THE INVOLVEMENT OF GREEN BERETS IN TRAINING HONDURAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. HE ACCUSED THE EMBASSY OF KNOWING OF THE TRAINING AND ACCUSED THE AMBASSADOR SPECIFICALLY OF PARTICIPATING IN THE FORMATION OF THE SQUADS, FOR WHICH HE (CUSTODIO) REQUESTED AMBASSADOR'S EXPULSION. IN ADDITION, HE CALLED FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA A "BAD HONDURAN" FOR HIS EXECUTION OF A FOREIGN POLICY WHICH RESPONDS TO U.S. INTERESTS

3. CUSTODIO FURTHER ALLEGED THAT THE FORMATION AND TRAINING OF THE DEATH SQUADS WERE PART OF A JOINT OPERATION WITH THE CIA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RESULTED IN THE DISAPPEARANCES OF 147 PEOPLE. THE GREEN BERETS, HE CLAIMED, TRAINED HONDURANS AT THE HONDURAN SPECIAL FORCES BASE AT LA VENTA AND WERE VISITED BY FORMER ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. GUSTAVO ALVAREZ AS WELL AS BY AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL. HE NAMED BYRON K. CARLISLE AS ONE OF THE SIX AMERICAN TRAINERS. (CARLISLE WAS ALSO MENTIONED IN THE HERALD ARTICLE). HE ALSO POINTED TO RICARDO LAU OF THE FDN AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS.

4. COMMENT: CUSTODIO APPEARS TO BE RESPONDING TO THE HERALD ARTICLE WHICH DEALS MAINLY WITH DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITIES AND MAKES ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN AN ELITE "COUNTER-TERRORIST" UNIT CREATED IN 1982-83.

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END OF MESSAGE
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LOWMAN

AS SUGGESTED BY MR. CUSTODIO.
DEATH SUDADS, OR IN ANY WAY WOULD CONDONE SUCH ACTIVITY
TO SUGGEST THAT WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN TRAINING OF
HOWEVER, IT IS TOTALLY FALSE AND PATENTLY ABSURD
WHICH, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE DO NOT COMMENT.
CLASSIFIED TRAINING ACTIVITIES WITH HONDURANS ABOUT

ANSWER: U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ENGAGED IN A NUMBER OF
TRAINING HONDURAN UNITS IN LA VENTA?

QUESTION: HAVE THE U.S. SPECIAL FORCES ENGAGED IN
ABSURD.

ANSWER: SUCH A CHARGE IS TOTALLY FALSE AND PATENTLY

HONDURAN DEATH SUDADS?
CUSTODIO THAT THE U.S. SPECIAL FORCES HAVE TRAINED

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT ON THE CHARGE BY RAMON

5. EMBASSY IS USING FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IF ASKED:

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